Persons and Animals Killed by Leopards in Himachal Pradesh

2028. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to *Unstarred Question* 47 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th July, 1996 and state;

(a) the number of persons and animals killed by the leopa in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the amount of compensation given to each of the persons; and

(c) whether Himachal Pradesh Government have ever approached the concerned Department to obtain permission for killing such leopards and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Govt. and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh for permission to kill such leopards, however, the State Govt. have been advised to deal with the problem under Section 11(1) (a) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, to protect the villagers from leopard menance till a district wise systematic status survey of leopard is conducted in the State and further action recommended.

Assistance for Development of Agriculture in Punjab

2029. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Punjab have sought financial assistance for the development of agriculture during the year 1995-96; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Financial Assistance to States in respect of Centrally Sponsored Schemes is released considering factors like proposals from States, progress of expenditure reported by the States, unspent balances lying with the State Governments out of releases made in earlier years, allocations made keeping in view the overall budgetory position etc.

A statement indicating the Central assistance released to Punjab during 1995-96 in respect of Various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of agriculture is annexed.

Statement

Financial Assistance given to Punjab under Centrally Sponsored Schemes during 1995-96.

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Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount released during 1995-96
1.	2	3
1.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.	NIL *
2.	Special Scheme for Credit for SCs/STs.	4.00

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